



Jurisdiction Profile:
Asthma in St. Mary's County

Background

What is Asthma? Asthma is a controllable, chronic lung disease characterized by inflammation of the airways that leads to reversible airway constriction and excess mucus secretion. Narrowing of the airways results in reduced airflow that may cause symptoms of wheezing, coughing, tightness of the chest, and difficulty breathing.

Asthma is a serious and complex chronic respiratory disease with no known cure that currently affects an estimated 823,000 Maryland adults and children. In 2009, asthma in Maryland resulted in 11,474 hospitalizations, 39,834 visits to hospital emergency departments, thousands of hours of lost school and work days, and 67 deaths. Maryland costs for asthma in hospital and emergency departments totaled over \$99 million in 2009. Due to the burden on patients, families, and society, asthma is considered a major public health concern in Maryland and nationally.

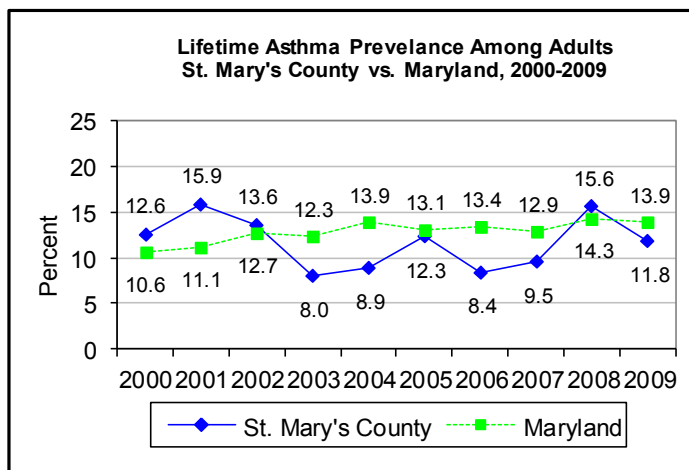
St. Mary's County Population Demographics, 2009		
Race	White	83,883
	Black	16,060
Age	0 - 4 yrs	7,483
	5 - 17 yrs	18,818
	18 - 64 yrs	66,244
	65+ yrs	10,454
	Total	102,999

Data in this report are from Maryland's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC), and Maryland's Vital Statistics Administration (VSA). Rates are calculated based on population statistics from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) vintage population files. Data have been age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. estimated population where noted. Since some Maryland residents are hospitalized in neighboring states, data on hospitalization of Maryland residents from Delaware, Pennsylvania*, Washington D.C., and West Virginia are included when possible.

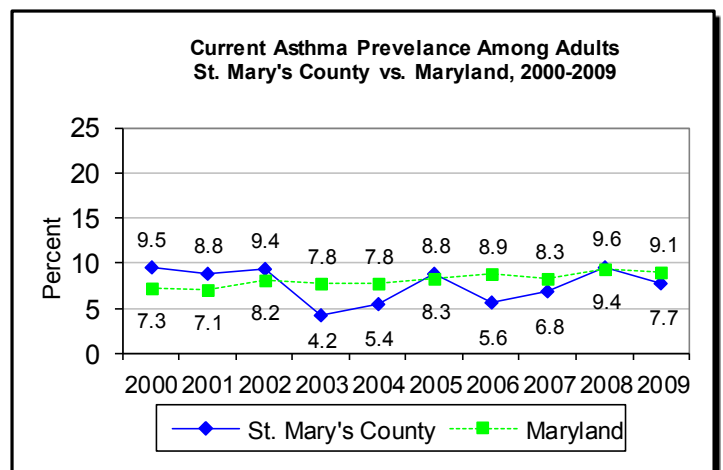
Prevalence

Statewide in 2009, approximately 594,609 (13.9%) Maryland adults had a history of asthma. In St. Mary's County, approximately 11.8% of adult residents had been diagnosed with asthma. Of these, 7.7% reported that they currently have asthma, representing approximately 6,663 adults in St. Mary's County.

While asthma is one of the most common illnesses among children, there is little reliable county level data on the prevalence of asthma in children.



Maryland BRFSS, 2000-2009.



Maryland BRFSS, 2000-2009.

* "The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) is an independent state agency responsible for addressing the problem of escalating health costs, ensuring the quality of health care, and increasing access to healthcare for all citizens regardless of ability to pay. PHC4 has provided data to this entity in an effort to further PHC4's mission of educating the public and containing health care costs in Pennsylvania. PHC4, its agents, and staff, have made no representation, guarantee, or warranty, expressed or implied, that the data -- financial, patient, payor, and physician specific information -- provided to this entity, are error-free, or that the use of the data will avoid differences of opinion or interpretation. This analysis was not prepared by PHC4. This analysis was done by MACP. PHC4, its agents and staff, bear no responsibility or liability for the results of the analysis, which are solely the opinion of MACP."

Emergency Department Visits

Asthma Emergency Department Visit Rates (per 10,000) St. Mary's County vs. Maryland, 2009

Age	St. Mary's County		Maryland	
	n	Rate	n	Rate
Children 0 - 4 yrs	101	135.0	7,443	195.6
5 - 17 yrs	141	73.3	11,077	114.7
< 18 yrs	242	88.0	18,520	136.1
Adults 18 - 64 yrs	360	54.9	20,296	56.3
65+ yrs	--	--	1,018	14.7
≥ 18 yrs	373	47.8	21,314	50.3
Total	615	58.9	39,834	72.3

Maryland HSCRC, 2009.

^a Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

^b Rates based on ≤ 20 counts are considered unreliable and are not displayed.

In St. Mary's County, the asthma ED visit rate was approximately 2.9 times higher in Black residents and 3.9 times higher in Other residents compared to White residents (127.1 and 170.4 vs. 43.8 per 10,000).

The asthma ED visit rate in St. Mary's County was lower only in Black residents compared to Maryland, while White and Other residents had higher ED visit rates compared to Maryland.

Rates based on the few ED visits for asthma among 65+ residents in St. Mary's County are unstable and are not reported.

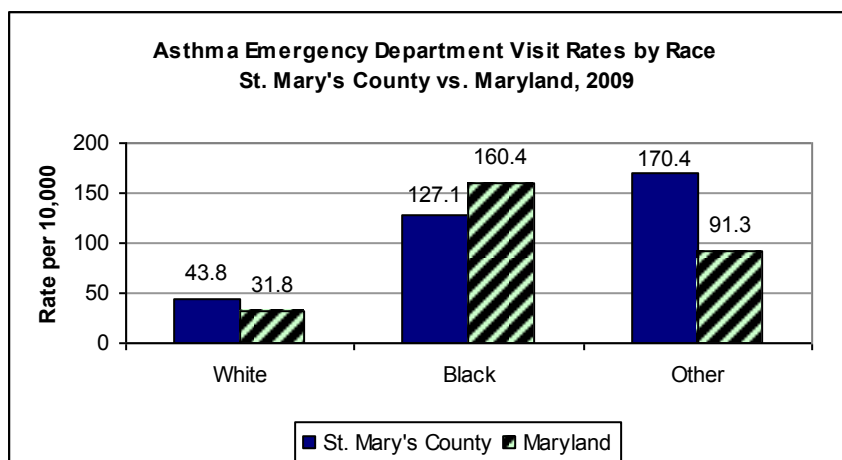
St. Mary's County ED visit rates exceeded the Healthy People 2010 goals for the 0 to 4 and 5 to 64 age groups.

Maryland ED visit rates exceeded Healthy People 2010 goals for all age groups with the exception of the adult age group of 65 years of age and older.

There were 615 emergency department (ED) visits with asthma as a principal diagnosis in St. Mary's County for 2009, resulting in an age-adjusted rate of 58.9 per 10,000.

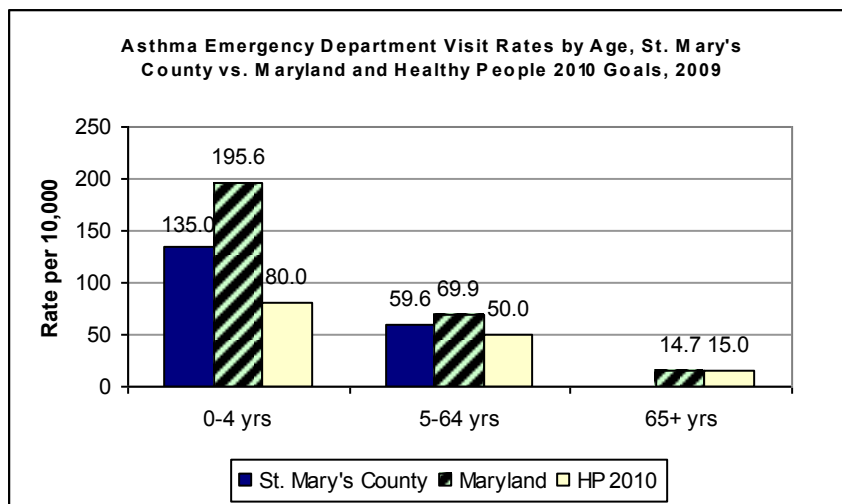
The ED visit rate for asthma among adult residents (≥ 18 years) in St. Mary's County was comparable to the ED visit rate for Maryland adults (47.8 vs. 50.3 per 10,000).

The ED visit rate for asthma among children (< 18 years) in St. Mary's County was 1.5 times lower than the ED visit rate for Maryland children (88.0 vs. 136.1 per 10,000).



Maryland HSCRC, 2009.

^a Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.



Maryland HSCRC, 2009; DATA2010 Healthy People 2010 Database, U.S. DHHS, 2010.

^a Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

^b Missing bars indicate that rates are unavailable based on low counts and unreliability.

Hospitalizations

Asthma Hospitalization Rates (per 10,000)

St. Mary's County vs. Maryland, 2009

Age	St. Mary's County		Maryland	
	n	Rate	n	Rate
Children 0 - 4 yrs	45	60.1	1,834	48.2
5 - 17 yrs	29	14.0	1,400	17.4
< 18 yrs	74	25.0	2,976	25.4
Adults 18 - 64 yrs	103	15.2	5867	9.5
65+ yrs	38	36.3	2,087	30.0
≥ 18 yrs	141	17.8	7954	13.2
Total	215	21.0	11,474	19.8

MD HSCRC, DE Dept of Health, PA Health Care Cost Containment Council, WV Health Care Authority, 2009.

^a Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

^b Includes Maryland residents hospitalized in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., and West Virginia (MD county data not available for Delaware hospitalizations; MD state data only includes Delaware for total, 0-4, and 65+ due to age groupings).

In St. Mary's County, the asthma hospitalization rate was 2.5 times higher in Black residents and 4.2 times higher in Other residents compared to White residents (40.7 and 67.9 vs. 16.0 per 10,000).

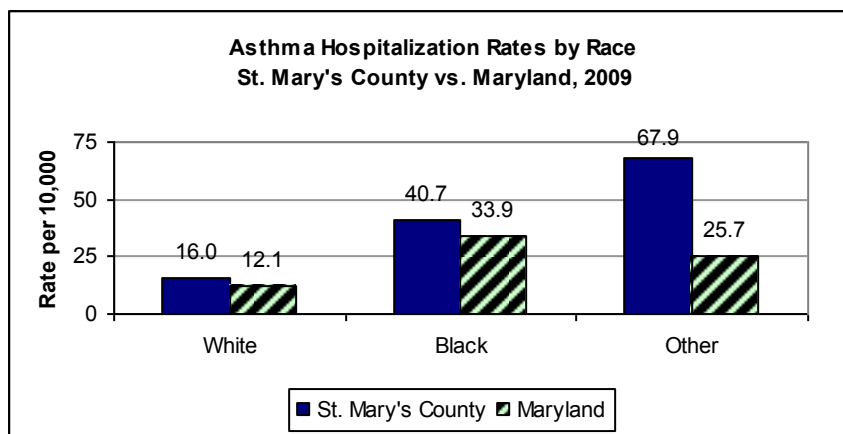
The asthma hospitalization rates in St. Mary's County residents was higher in all race categories compared to Maryland.

In 2009, St. Mary's County and Maryland exceeded the Healthy People 2010 goals for hospitalizations rates in all age categories.

There were 215 hospitalizations for asthma as a principal diagnosis in St. Mary's County in 2009, resulting in an age-adjusted rate of 21.0 per 10,000.

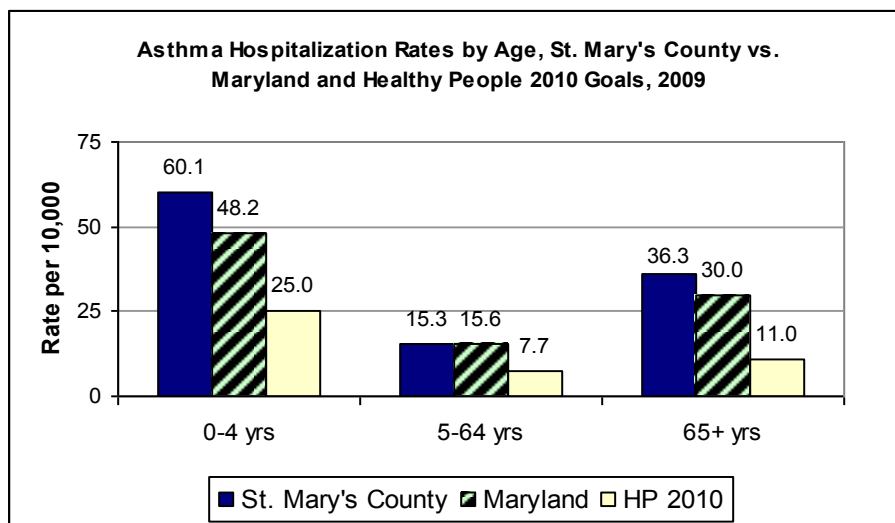
The hospitalization rate for asthma among adult residents (≥ 18 years) in St. Mary's County was comparable to the hospitalization rate for Maryland adults as a whole (17.8 vs. 13.2 per 10,000).

The hospitalization rate for asthma among children (< 18 years) in St. Mary's County was comparable to the hospitalization rate for Maryland children (25.0 vs. 25.4 per 10,000).



Maryland HSCRC, 2009; Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, 2009.

^a Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.



MD HSCRC, DE Dept of Health, PA Health Care Cost Containment Council, WV Health Care Authority, 2009.

^a Rates are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population.

^b Includes Maryland residents hospitalized in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., and West Virginia (MD county data not available for Delaware hospitalizations; MD state data only includes Delaware for total, 0-4, and 65+ due to age groupings).

Cost of Asthma

The average cost per asthma ED visit for children was \$262 in St. Mary's County and \$658 in Maryland. The average cost per asthma ED visit for adults was \$310 in St. Mary's County and \$647 for Maryland. The total average cost for an asthma ED visit in St. Mary's County was found to be statistically different than the state of Maryland.

Costs per Emergency Room Visit for Asthma, 2009

Age	St. Mary's County		Maryland	
	Average	Total	Average	Total
Children (0-17 yrs)	\$262	\$63,271	\$658	\$12,188,425
Adults (18+ yrs)	\$310	\$115,639	\$647	\$13,795,690
Total	\$291	\$178,910	\$652	\$25,984,115

Maryland HSCRC, 2009.

In St. Mary's County, private insurance was the source of payment for approximately 44.6% of asthma ED visits, while public insurance was the source of 32.8% of the visits.

Private insurance was the source of payment for approximately 34.2% of asthma ED visits in Maryland, while public insurance was the source for 45.6% of the visits.

Source of Payment for Asthma Emergency Room Visits, 2009

Source of Payment	St. Mary's County	Maryland
Medicare	5.2%	5.2%
Medicaid	27.6%	40.4%
Private Insurance	44.6%	34.2%
Self Pay/Charity	9.1%	18.6%
Other/Unknown	13.5%	1.6%

Maryland HSCRC, 2009.

The average cost per asthma hospitalization for children was \$4,324 in St. Mary's County and \$5,403 in Maryland. The average cost per asthma hospitalization for adults was \$5,557 in St. Mary's County and \$7,397 in Maryland. The total average cost for an asthma hospitalization in St. Mary's County was found to be statistically different than the state of Maryland.

Costs per Hospitalization for Asthma, 2009

Age	St. Mary's County		Maryland	
	Average	Total	Average	Total
Children (0-17 yrs)	\$4,324	\$276,726	\$5,403	\$16,078,883
Adults (18+ yrs)	\$5,557	\$766,911	\$7,397	\$57,274,922
Total	\$5,167	\$1,043,637	\$6,843	\$73,353,805

Maryland HSCRC, 2009.

In St. Mary's County, private insurance was the source of payment for approximately 32.2% of all 2009 asthma hospitalizations, while public insurance was the source of 46.5% of the stays.

Private insurance was the source of payment for 30.6% of asthma hospitalizations in Maryland, while public insurance was the source for 60% of the asthma hospitalizations.

Source of Payment for Asthma Hospitalizations, 2009

Source of Payment	St. Mary's County	Maryland
Medicare	23.7%	26.0%
Medicaid	22.8%	34.0%
Private Insurance	32.2%	30.6%
Self Pay/Charity	10.9%	7.7%
Other/Unknown	10.4%	1.7%

Maryland HSCRC, 2009.

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